

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1 and 13 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1 and 3-14 are pending, and claim 2 has been canceled.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed electronically on March 10, 2008 with the appropriate fee. However the IDS was not acknowledged by the office action. Consideration and acknowledgment if the IDS is requested.

Claims 1, 3-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Militana (US 3,168,836). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Militana discloses a sprocket (20) comprising a core (22) and a wear rim (24). Core (22) includes a hub (26) with an opening (28) that fits on the end of a vehicle drive shaft. A plurality of spider arms (30) extend radially outwardly from hub (26), and a hoop (32) is disposed on the ends of spider arms (30). Wear rim (24) has an inner periphery (33) that is dimensioned to fit on the outer periphery of hoop (32) with a sliding fit so that wear rim (24) may be removed and replaced easily from core (22). This ease of removal and replacement is the primary purpose of the Militana invention.

Initially, it is submitted that Militana's sprocket is not a bicycle sprocket as alleged in the office action. As indicated at column 3, lines 22-25, the sprocket is used for heavy construction and earth-moving equipment. Thus, there is no basis to say that the teeth (45) are "dimensioned to engage a bicycle chain" as recited in independent claims 1 and 13. Furthermore, regarding the rejection of claim 13, it is unreasonable to say that arms (30) are part of splines (28). The splines terminate radially at the female grooves of splines (28).

In any event, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify that the plurality of teeth are one-piece with and extend radially outwardly from the sprocket body. That clearly is not the case with the Militana sprocket. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not make Militana's plurality of teeth one-piece with the sprocket body because it is well-settled that one would not

modify a prior art device in a manner that destroys its intended operation. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125, 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

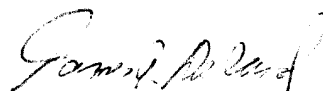
Claims 1, 3-5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lim, et al (US 2001/0039224). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lim, et al discloses a freewheel (15) for a bicycle. Freewheel (15) includes an outer tubular body (17) that supports a plurality of sprockets (21-27). Sprocket (21), for example, includes a splined inner peripheral surface that engages a corresponding splined outer peripheral surface of outer tubular body (17). A plurality of sprocket teeth are disposed circumferentially around the outer peripheral surface of the sprocket body, and a plurality of oval-shaped openings are disposed circumferentially around the middle portion of the sprocket body.

It is unreasonable to interpret the radially outwardly facing surfaces of the plurality of oval openings in the sprocket body to be part of the splines. At most, the splines on the inner peripheral surface of the sprocket body terminate radially at the female grooves of the splines.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and/or remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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